In the claims:

Ple^{as}e amend the claims as follows:

     1. (Currently Amended) A <u>computer implemented</u> system for processing records associated with a patient encounter with a healthcare organization, comprising:

     a document processor for receiving a document representing a record associated with a patient encounter with a healthcare organization and for appending identifiers to ~~said~~ <u>the</u> received document <u>by automatically adding identifiers to said received document to provide a processed document in response to examining said received document to determine whether an identifier in said received document is at least one of, missing and unusable, said patient encounter comprising an interaction of a patient with a healthcare organization including a patient visit,</u> said identifiers including:

     (a) an encounter identifier identifying a particular healthcare encounter of a particular patient,

     (b) a medical record identifier identifying a patient medical record of said particular patient, and

     (c) a patient record section identifier identifying a particular section of said patient medical record;

     <u>a sorting processor for sorting said processed document based on identifiers appended to said processed document to provide a sorted processed document;</u> and

     an output processor for processing said <u>sorted processed</u> document, including ~~said~~ appended identifiers, for output <u>and storing said sorted processed document in memory</u>.

     2. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 1, wherein

     <u>an unusable identifier is at least one of, incorrect, conflicting and illegible,</u>

     said received document is an electronic document comprising data representing ~~said~~ <u>a patient medical</u> record associated with ~~said~~ <u>a</u> patient encounter with a healthcare organization and

     said document processor appends data representing said identifiers to said received document.

3. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 1, wherein

said received document is a paper document comprising data representing ~~said~~ a patient medical record associated with ~~said~~ a patient encounter with a healthcare organization and

said document processor appends said identifiers to said received document by imprinting said identifiers onto said document.

4. (Original) A system according to claim 3, wherein

said document processor appends said identifiers to said received document by imprinting on said document at least one of: (a) characters comprising said identifiers, (b) a bar code representing said identifiers and (c) other codes representing said identifiers.

5. (Original) A system according to claim 1, wherein

said document processor appends said identifiers to said received document in response to user selection and entry of data representing said identifiers.

6. (Original) A system according to claim 1, wherein

said document processor appends said identifiers to said received document in response to an event occurring in a healthcare organization including at least one of: (a) a patient admission, (b) a beginning of a medical procedure, (c) an end of a medical procedure, (d) a patient discharge, and (e) a user-defined event based on acquired information.

7. (Original) A system according to claim 1, including

an identification processor for parsing and examining said received document to determine information for use in deriving said identifiers.

8. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim ~~1~~ 7, including

said document processor automatically appends said identifiers to said received document in response to identification of said received document by said identification processor.

9. (Currently Amended) A <u>processing device implemented</u> system for sorting records associated with patient encounters with a healthcare organization, comprising:

a document processor for receiving <u>physical</u> documents representing records associated with patient encounters with a healthcare organization <u>and for appending identifiers to said received documents by automatically adding identifiers to the received document to provide a processed document in response to examining said received document to determine whether an identifier in said received document is at least one of, missing and unusable, said patient encounter comprising an interaction of a patient with a healthcare organization including a patient visit, said identifiers including:</u>

<u>(a) an encounter identifier identifying a particular healthcare encounter of a particular patient,</u>

<u>(b) a medical record identifier identifying a patient medical record of said particular patient, and</u>

<u>(c) a patient record section identifier identifying a particular section of said patient medical record</u>; and

a collator for sorting said received documents based on identifiers appended to said received documents to provide sorted documents<u>;</u> ~~, said identifiers including,~~

~~(a) an encounter identifier identifying a particular healthcare encounter of a particular patient,~~

~~(b) a medical record identifier identifying a patient medical record of said particular patient, and~~

~~(c) a patient record section identifier identifying a particular section of said patient medical record~~

<u>a storage processor for storing said sorted documents in memory.</u>

10. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim ~~1~~<u>9</u>, wherein said collator sorts and groups records based on said identifiers.

11. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim ~~1~~<u>9</u>, wherein said collator sorts and groups records in response to user selection of a prioritized order of said identifiers.

12. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim ~~1~~9, wherein
said collator sorts and groups records in response to user selection of a combination
of one or more of said identifiers.

13. (Currently Amended) A system for processing records associated with a
patient encounter with a healthcare organization, comprising:
a document processor for receiving a <u>physical</u> document representing a record
associated with a patient encounter with a healthcare organization and for appending
identifiers to ~~said~~ <u>the</u> received <u>physical</u> document, said identifiers including,

(a) an encounter identifier identifying a particular healthcare encounter of a
particular patient,

(b) a medical record identifier identifying a patient medical record of said
particular patient, and

(c) a patient record section identifier identifying a particular section of said
patient medical record; and
a collator for sorting <u>physical</u> documents <u>including said received physical document</u>
based on said appended identifiers to provide sorted documents.

14. (Original) A system according to claim 13, wherein
said collator sorts and groups records in response to user selection of a combination
of one or more of said identifiers.

15. (Original) A system according to claim 13, further comprising a copy
processor for:
receiving user identification information in authorizing document copying, and
scanning and storing said identifiers in maintaining a record of users and copied
documents for use in maintaining a copying audit trail.

16. (Withdrawn) A system for securely copying records associated with a patient encounter with a healthcare organization, comprising:

an interface processor for receiving user identification information;

a document processor for receiving a document including identifiers comprising,

(a) an encounter identifier identifying a particular healthcare encounter of a particular patient,

(b) a medical record identifier identifying a patient medical record of said particular patient, and

(c) a patient record section identifier identifying a particular section of said patient medical record; and

a copy processor for initiating copying of said document in response to said user identification information and for scanning and storing said identifiers in maintaining a record of users and copied documents for use in maintaining a copying audit trail.

17. (Withdrawn) A system according to claim 16, wherein:

said copy processor comprises a printing processor for initiating printing of said document in response to said user identification information and for scanning and storing said identifiers in maintaining a record of users and printed documents for use in maintaining a printing audit trail.

18. (Withdrawn) A system according to claim 16, wherein:

said copy processor comprises a scanning processor for initiating scanning of said document in response to said user identification information and for scanning and storing said identifiers in maintaining a record of users and scanned documents for use in maintaining a scanning audit trail.

19. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable medium containing instructions for activities comprising:

receiving a document representing a record associated with a patient encounter with a healthcare organization;

appending identifiers to ~~said~~ the received document by automatically adding identifiers to said received document to provide a processed document in response to examining said received document to determine whether an identifier in said received document is at least one of, missing and unusable, said patient encounter comprising an interaction of a patient with a healthcare organization including a patient visit, said identifiers including:

(a) an encounter identifier identifying a particular healthcare encounter of a particular patient,

(b) a medical record identifier identifying a patient medical record of said particular patient, and

(c) a patient record section identifier identifying a particular section of said patient medical record; and

processing said physical document, including said appended identifiers, for output.